

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 683

Introduced by Assembly Member Plescia

February 19, 2003

An act to add and repeal Chapter 8.7 (commencing with Section 1370) of Division 6 of the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 683, as introduced, Plescia. Veterans cemeteries.

Existing law provides for the burial of veterans and veterans' widows and widowers, and the care of veterans' graves.

This bill would establish a Governor's Commission on State Veterans Cemeteries consisting of 5 members who are veterans, 3 appointed by the Governor, one appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, and one appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, to advise the Governor and the Legislature, as specified, on the establishment of veterans cemeteries in California. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2006.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 8.7 (commencing with Section 1370) is
2 added to Division 6 of the Military and Veterans Code, to read:
3

1 CHAPTER 8.7. GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON VETERANS
2 CEMETERIES
3

4 1370. (a) There is hereby created a Governor's Commission
5 on Veterans Cemeteries to advise the Governor and the Legislature
6 on the establishment of State Veterans Cemeteries in California.

7 (b) The commission shall consist of five members as follows:

8 (1) Three veterans, as defined by Section 980, appointed by the
9 Governor.

10 (2) One veteran, as defined by Section 980, appointed by the
11 Speaker of the Assembly.

12 (3) One veteran, as defined by Section 980, appointed by the
13 Senate Committee on Rules.

14 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, gubernatorial
15 appointments made pursuant to subdivision (b) shall not be subject
16 to confirmation by the Senate.

17 (d) The Governor shall select one of the members to serve as
18 chairperson.

19 (e) (1) Each member of the commission shall receive, for each
20 day's attendance at each meeting of the commission, a per diem of
21 fifty dollars (\$50) and shall receive the same per diem for each day
22 spent on official duties assigned by the commission.

23 (2) Each member shall be reimbursed for his or her necessary
24 traveling and other expenses incurred in the performance of his or
25 her official duties.

26 1371. The commission shall establish findings and make
27 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on the
28 possible establishment of State Veterans Cemeteries in California.
29 The findings and recommendations shall include, but need not be
30 limited to, the following matters:

31 (a) Possible sites for one or more State Veterans Cemeteries in
32 California. This recommendation shall give consideration to the
33 availability of federal surplus property and any property available
34 for no cost, or at less than market value, from public or private
35 sources.

36 (b) The criteria for determining need for the sites which are
37 recommended, including the population to be served, potential
38 interments over a period of time, and the distance and travel
39 conditions to other national or state facilities to serve veterans.

1 (c) The cost of construction, and potential grant funding
2 support for these costs from the United States Department of
3 Veterans Affairs.

4 (d) The cost of annual operations, and possible sources of
5 funding therefor.

6 (e) The management of each site by state or private
7 administration.

8 1372. The commission shall report to the Governor and the
9 Legislature, on or before October 1, 2004, and on or before
10 October 1, 2005, concerning its findings and recommendations, as
11 specified in Section 1371.

12 1373. The California Department of Veterans Affairs shall
13 provide staff assistance to the commission. Other state agencies,
14 including, but not limited to, the Governor's Office of Planning
15 and Research, the office of the Treasurer, and the Project
16 Management Branch within the Real Estate Services Division of
17 the Department of General Services, may provide staff assistance
18 to the commission upon its request.

19 1374. This chapter shall remain in effect only until January 1,
20 2006, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,
21 that is enacted before January 1, 2006, deletes or extends that date.

